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PRESS RELEASE from Gallatin County, Bozeman School District, City of Bozeman, City of Belgrade, and Belgrade School District.

Last week, the Department of Revenue (DOR) sent a letter to the Bozeman City Commission and Belgrade City Council regarding certified taxable values in our area, which are published by the DOR annually. In summary, the letter says the taxable value distributed for Gallatin County was incorrect. The DOR ran out of time and was unable to include all newly taxable property in our certified taxable values. The calculation impacts multiple taxing jurisdictions including Gallatin County, the Cities of Bozeman and Belgrade, and the Bozeman and Belgrade School Districts.

If taxes are levied based on these incorrect certified values, existing property owners are likely to pay higher tax bills while newly taxable properties may avoid payments until 2025. Doing so will also cause revenue shortfalls for some jurisdictions, which may result in a lower level of service to the communities. These impacts are not acceptable to our elected officials, administrators, and constituents.

We cannot stress enough how much we appreciate the Department of Revenue's efforts during a time period where property tax fatigue and angst is elevated statewide. Our elected officials and administrators within all of our jurisdictions have the utmost respect for the Department and its staff.

Our entities agree that it is critically important to get this issue corrected for our shared taxpayers. Fortunately, we have some time before tax bills are mailed in October. We see this as an opportunity for our local jurisdictions and the Department of Revenue to work together to resolve this issue and do right by the area taxpayers. Our entities sent a letter to the DOR requesting their support in this effort, and we look forward to collaborating with them to that end.